

## Message Text

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17

ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PER-01 PC-01 SCS-03 L-03 SCA-01

DHA-02 /021 W

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R 280747Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3553

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER PC KS

SUBJECT: CASE OF FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER MICHAEL HEFFNER

1. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT DELIVERING FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO CONGRESSMAN BOB TRAXLER IN RESPONSE TO HIS COMMERCIAL CABLE OF OCT 23 TO AMBASSADOR.

2. DEPARTURE OF MR. AND MRS. HEFFNER FROM KOREA HAS BEEN DELAYED BY INABILITY OF MRS. HEFFNER TO MEET STRICT KOREAN LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT SHE SURRENDER HER IDENTITY CARD AT TIME OF DEPARTURE FROM KOREA. WHILE SHE HAS PASSPORT AND VISA IN HER POSSESSION, SHE HAS NOT HAD POSSESSION OF HER IDENTITY CARD (OR SOUGHT TO OBTAIN REPLACEMENT) FOR PAST YEAR. IT BEING HELD OR HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY PARENTS. LATTER HAVE BEEN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO BOTH MARRIAGE AND DEPARTURE OF DAUGHTER FROM KOREA AND HAVE THUS FAR REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN EITHER RETURNING CARD OR ASSISTING IN OBTAINING REPLACEMENT.

3. EMBASSY AND PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR HAVE ENDEAVORED TO EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO HEFFNERS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. IF INFORMAL EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY PROVE INEFFECTIVE, EMBASSY WILL CONSIDER RAISING QUESTION AT HIGHER LEVELS. PROBLEM IS MADE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT INVOLVES NOT ONLY LEGAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING IDENTITY CARD BUT MARRIAGE AND EMIGRATION OVER OBJECTIONS OF PARENTS VIOLATES KOREAN SOCIAL MORES IN FACE OF WHICH OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS FIND IT EXTREME-

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LY DIFFICULT TO ACT.

SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION H  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CASE OF FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER MICHAEL HEFFNER  
**TAGS:** APER, PC, KS, (HEFFNER, MICHAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006